ISLE OF WIGHT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

INCLUDING THE

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

FOR THE YEAR 1968

ISLE OF WIGHT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ALISON M. BATTEN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

With the Compliments

of the

Medical Officer of Health

County Hall
Newport, I.W.

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ISLE OF WIGHT

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE ANNUAL REPORT

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THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

FOR THE YEAR 1968

.....

County Hall,
Newport,
Isle of Wight

Tel: Newport 4031

To the Members of the Isle of Wight Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1968.

The vital statistics do not reveal any significant changes.

The illegitimacy rate was lower than last year being 10.8% of total live births as compared with 12.3% in 1967.

Water Supplies

The water supplies in the Rural District have been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

The water is not liable to be plumbo-solvent and no contamination occurred.

There are only a few properties in the District, possibly about twenty, which have not a main water supply.

Removal of persons in need of care and attention.

No action was required this year under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

Noise

Noise appears to be on the increase especially in rural areas. In the past one could escape from the noisy town to the quiet countryside, but today even in the most rural area one cannot be sure one will escape from the scream of jet engines, the roar of hovercraft, or even someone else's transistor radio.
It is possibly debatable whether noise is directly harmful to the auditory apparatus, but there is no doubt it has a deleterious effect on many people's nerves.

Refuse Disposal

In the Rural District disposal of refuse is still carried out by tipping. The only possible argument that can be put forward in favour of this method is its cheapness. From a public health

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1968

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

John Mills, M.D.,Ch.B.,M.R.C.S.(Eng.),L.R.C.P.(Lond.),D.P.H.(Died 5th April 1968)

Alison M. Batten, M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H. (Commenced 2nd October 1968)

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS :

C.V. Smith, M.R.S.H., M.A.R.D.C.S. - West Wight

R.J. Nichols, F.I.A.S., A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H. - East Wight

TEMPORARY ASSISTANT SURVEYOR

W.I.J. Barber

CLERK:

Miss R. Harding

GENERAL STATISTICS

Population (Registrar General's figures)	19,410
Area (in acres)	58,127
Number of habitable dwellings end of 1968	8,078
Rateable Value, as at 1st April, 1968	£708,791
Sum represented by a penny rate (1967/68)	£2,788

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	13.3
Comparative factor	1.31
Comparative Birth Rate	17.4
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	11.5
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimatedresident population	16.2
Comparative factor	0.71
Comparative Death Rate	11.5
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	Nil
Death Rate of infants under one year of age:-	
All infants per 1,000 live births	19.4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	17.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	35.7
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	60

BIRTHS

The total number of live births was 258 of which 230 were legitimate and 28 illegitimate. The livebirth rate was 13.3 per 1,000 living; the birth rate for England and Wales being 16.9.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The total number of deaths was 315 which gives a comparative death rate of 11.5 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population; the death rate for England and Wales being 11.9.

Causes of Death

Under the Eighth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases deaths are now classified under a total of 65 headings. Causes of death attributed to Isle of Wight Rural District residents only are given below. The nomenclature of certain categories has been amended from previous years to agree with the revised Classification.

	Male	Female
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal diseases	1	-
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-
Malignant neoplasm - stomach	1	1
" " - lung, bronchus	13	4
" " - breast	-	6
" " - uterus	-	2
" " - other	17	16
Leukaemia	2	3
Diabetes Mellitus	1	-
Other endocrine etc. diseases	-	1
Anaemias	-	2
Other diseases of blood, etc.	-	1
Other diseases of Nervous system, etc.	1	1
Coronary disease, angina	53	21
Other forms of heart disease	10	22
Cerebrovascular disease	24	34
Other diseases of Circulatory system	8	3
Influenza	-	4
Pneumonia	4	8
Bronchitis and Emphysema	8	6
Other respiratory diseases	1	4
Peptic ulcer	-	1
Other diseases of digestive system	3	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	1	-
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	1	2
Congenital anomalies	1	-
Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	2
Symptons and ill-defined conditions	-	2
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-
All other accidents	1	6
Suicide and self inflicted injuries	3	2
All causes	159	156

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR, 1968

Age	Dysentery	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Pulmonary Tuber-culosis.
Under 1 year	-	-	1		-
1 and under 2 years	-	-	-	2	-
2 " " 3 "	-	-	-	4	-
3 " " 4	-	-	-	3	-
4 " " 5	-	1	-	5	-
5 " " 10	-	-	1	19	-
10 " " 15	-	-	1	3	-
15 " " 25	1	-	1	-	-
25 " " 35	-	-	-	-	
35 " " 45	-	-	-	-	1
45 " " 65	-	-	-	-	1
65 years and over	-	-	-	-	1
Total	1	1	4	36	3

All other notifiable diseases Nil

EAST WIGHT

WATER SUPPLIES

The substantial majority of properties are served by a mains water supply for which the I.W. River and Water Authority are the responsible authority for supplies throughout the Isle of Wight.

Samples of main water taken proved to be satisfactory.

There are a few isolated dwellings not yet served by mains water but it is understood that schemes are under consideration to bring most of these properties on to a mains supply in the reasonably near future.

WATER SAMPLES

A number of water samples were taken from private supplies serving dwellings and in one instance from a holiday camp supplied by a spring where samples were also taken of a swimming pool to test the efficiency of the chlorination system.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

No new conveniences have been provided during the year; the existing facilities are Bembridge (3), Brading, Niton and Godshill.

In addition to the conveniences owned by the Council, arrangements have continued with the respective owners, for the public to have the use of the conveniences at The Buddle Inn, Niton, and Castlehaven Caravan Site, Niton.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Main sewerage systems are in operation in the villages of Apse Heath, Brading, Bembridge, Blackgang, Chillerton, Godshill, Niton and Whitwell.

Disposal works

Apse Heath: Inland plant with percolation filter.

Bembridge: Sea outfall.

The scheme prepared by the Council's consultants to improve the existing method by increased holder storage tanks, treatment by comminutor, extended sea outfall and to discharge all sewage only at certain states of the tide, is still awaiting Ministerial approval.

Brading: Inland works with percolating filter.

The improvement and enlargement of this works was completed at the end of the year.

Blackgang: Inland works with percolating filter.

Chillerton: Inland works, incorporating storage tanks and land irrigation.

Godshill: Inland works with percolating filter.

Niton and Whitwell: Inland works with percolating filter.

The present very old works at Roud is overloaded, not only from the increased number of new dwellings but particularly by excessive surface water discharged to it from the combined systems in both villages. Following the submission of a report, the Council's consultants were instructed to prepare a scheme for improving the present sewerage system and the disposal works.

REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE

In addition to the weekly collection of refuse throughtout the area which has been carried out successfully during the year, the service has been supplemented by an additional special collection of bulky items once or twice a month, as demand requires, in order to comply with the Civic Amenities Act 1967. An arrangement has also been entered into with a local scrap dealer to cut up old derelict or abandoned vehicles to facilitate their ready removal.

All refuse and scrap collected in the East Wight is still taken to Bleakdown which is a controlled tip, with the exception of refuse from the Brading and Bembridge areas, which is taken to the small controlled tip at Brading.

Vehicles	Mileage
Bembridge and Brading:	
S & D 35 cub.yd Pakamatic	4,030
Arreton, Newchurch, Part Godshill	
S & D 20 cub.yd Pakamatic	9,003
Niton, Chale, Gatcombe & Part Godshill	
S & D cub.yd Pakamatic	7,949

LITTER BASKETS

Additional baskets have been installed during the year and the regular emptying of these is carried out by the Council's staff.

.....

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE

The Council now has its own vehicle and the service is more efficiently and effectively dealt with.

The Total number of cesspools emptied 571

.....

HOSTELS

W.H.A. Hostel, Whitwell. Mains water, drainage to cesspool. Public refuse collection.

.....

HOUSING

New dwellings erected - For whole District totals see West Wight Report.

Slum Clearance (East and West Wight)

No. of unfit houses demolished	...	...	Nil
No. of unfit houses closed	...	...	1
No. of families rehoused from these unfit houses	...	...	1

Improvement Grants - for whole district see West Wight Report.

Assisted House Purchase and Loans to carry out Repairs
(East and West Wight)

During 1968 loans were made in respect of the purchase, construction, repair, improvement or alteration of 52 properties. The total amount paid in this respect was £103,285 .

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

No. of licensed caravan sites (East Wight) ... 8.

An additional licence was granted for tented camping at Beaper Farm, Brading.

REGISTRATION OF PREMISES FOR THE SALE OF ICE CREAM

No. of premises registered (East and West Wight) ... 148

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

No. of licensed premises 3

The licence held by the R.S.P.C.A. at Bohemia, Godshill, was amended to include 30 Cats, in addition to 40 dogs.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT

	No. of premises registered	No. of persons employed
Offices	22	88
Retail Shops	53	168
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	-
Catering establishments	21	144
Fuel storage depots	-	-

WORK OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Total number of visits of inspection made ...	2,077
Houses inspected	42
Houses reinspected	21
Cowstables and dairies	-
Food preparing premises	29
Meat and other foods inspection	46
Drains and sewers	301
Water supplies	14
Refuse collection	163
Various	279
New buildings and alterations	1,182
In addition, visits made by Mr. Jefferies, Clerk of Works, acting as Asst. Building Inspector ...	878

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Particulars of the administration of the Factories Act, 1961 - Parts I and VIII administered by the District Council : -

Inspections (for purposes of provisions as to health - including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

	No. on Register	Inspections	No. of written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	20	6	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	14	-	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	-	-	-	-

Cases in which defects were found Nil

PART VIII of the Act (Outwork)

Sections 133 and 134 ... Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Unsound food dealt with during the year: - Nil

WEST WIGHT

WATER SUPPLIES

The rainfall for the year was 34.9 inches and the average water consumption for the West Wight was 668,000 gallons per day. 116 samples of water supplies were examined for bacteriological analysis, of which 91% were classified as satisfactory.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

New Public Conveniences have been erected opposite The Common, Yarmouth.

Public Conveniences are also provided at Freshwater Bay, Freshwater (2) Totland, Totland Bay, Colwell Bay, Yarmouth and Alum Bay (by arrangement with The Needles Hotel). All the conveniences are maintained by one full-time attendant.

Public Conveniences (chemical disposal type) are provided at Compton Bay. These are maintained by a part-time attendant.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE

Main sewerage systems are provided at Freshwater, Totland, Colwell Bay, Yarmouth, Shorwell, Brighstone and Calbourne.

Disposal of sewage

Freshwater - 18" dia. sea outfall at Norton, extending 700 feet out from shore. (Including Monks area)

Yarmouth - Sea outfall discharging 500 feet from shore near end of Yarmouth Pier.

6" diameter sea outfall taking the drainage of 4 dwellings at the top of the High Street.

Totland - 12" diameter sea outfall extending approximately 1,000 feet out from shore.

Shorwell - To sewage disposal works with purification by settlement tanks and aeration beds.

Brighstone - ditto.

Calbourne - ditto.

Bouldnor area (Shalfleet parish) ditto.

Brook (former Estate sewer) - By settlement tank (anaerobic treatment)

Newtown (Old Vicarage Estate) - To sewage disposal works with purification by settlement tanks and aeration beds.

Small sewage purification plants

There is a small sewage purification plant in Shalfleet Village taking the drainage of some 20 Council houses and private properties.

Small sewage purification plants are provided at Porchfield, Thorley and Newbridge Housing Estates, and there is a small sewage purification plant at Alum Bay dealing with the drainage of the Public Conveniences, the Needles Hotel and Tea Rooms.

No major sewage schemes have been carried out during the year due, in part, to the Government's directions on the restriction of capital expenditure and also the need for the revision of some existing proposals, to take into account the unusual demand for private housing development in the several parishes of the district.

The Council has under consideration the major improvements required to the sewerage systems serving the parishes of Freshwater, Totland and Yarmouth and is in favour of the continuance of disposal to a sea-outfall subject to the findings of a further hydrographic survey to determine a suitable locality where the sewage can be regulated to discharge into deep water on the ebb tide.

REFUSE COLLECTION:

There is a weekly collection of domestic refuse in all parishes with an additional collection, where required, from the larger business establishments and the seasonal demands of the several large holiday camps, hotels and caravan sites.

The refuse is transported to the centralised refuse tip at Bleakdown.

Vehicles	Mileage
Freshwater, Totland & Yarmouth:	
S & D 35 cub.yd Pakamatic	11,476
S & D 25 cub.yd Pakamatic	9,571
Agricultural parishes:	
S & D 20 cub.yd Pakamatic	13,000 (estimated)

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE

The Council has purchased a new cesspool emptying lorry to serve premises where there is no public sewer available.

Total number of cesspools or septic tanks cleaned: 347.

(Contd)

A geological survey of the district shows there is a wide belt of heavy clay land where conditions are not favourable for drainage disposal to septic tanks and proposals for relatively high density development in these areas should be discouraged until it is economically feasible to provide an extension of the public sewage system.

HOSTELS

Weston Manor, Totland:	Mains water supply. Main drainage. Weekly collection of refuse.

HOUSING (East and West Wight)

No. of new dwellings erected by the Council during the year:	5
No. of private houses erected	241
No. of plans deposited and reported upon by the Council:	650

The rural district finds ever increasing favour with persons wishing to have a home situated in a beautiful countryside and also convenient to the small holiday resorts and fine stretches of coastline. Many people retiring to the Island are able to find or build a house to their liking but local newly wedded couples find it difficult to buy a house at a modest price and to undertake mortgage repayment at the current very high rates of interest.

Improvement Grants (East and West Wight)

The Rural District Council continued their policy of making improvement grants and during the year 35 properties were improved under this scheme.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

No. of caravan sites licensed in West Wight: ... 8

There are no permanent residential caravan sites and only in very exceptional cases is there any room on a licensed site for the holiday maker with his own touring caravan.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

No. of licensed premises ... 2.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT

	No. of premises registered	No. of persons employed
Offices	30	112
Retail shops	71	277
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	-
Catering establishments	31	235
Fuel storage depots	1	4

There is no staff available to undertake routine inspections but no complaints have been received and visits have been restricted to enquiries into the causes of one or two minor accidents.

Where plans are submitted for new premises or alterations to existing buildings the attention of the developer is drawn to the requirements of the Act.

WORK OF PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Total number of visits of inspection made -	1,483
Houses inspected	98
Houses reinspected	87
Cowstables and dairies	6
Food preparation premises	30
Meat and other foods inspection	24
Drains and sewers	412
Water supplies	8
Refuse collection	18
Various	300
New buildings & alterations	500

In addition, visits made by
Mr. Jefferies, Clerk of Works,
acting as Asst. Building Inspector ... 484

FACTORIES ACT

Particulars of the administration of the Factories Act, 1961, Parts I and VIII administered by the District Council:-

Inspections (Part I of the Act)

For purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

	No. on Register	Inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4,& 6 are to be enforced by local authorities:	29	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority.	20	-	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority (excluding out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-

Cases in which defects were found

(If defects are discovered on the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they are reckoned as two, three or more cases).

	No. of cases in which defects were found	
	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness (Sect. 1)	3	3
Ineffective drainage of floors (Sect. 6)	-	-
Sanitary conveniences unsuitable or defective (Sect. 7)	1	1

RODENT CONTROL

East and West Wight

430 premises were treated during the year, the Rodent Operator making 1,290 visits. The annual testing and treatment of the Council's sewers was carried out and the spraying of refuse tips.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Amount of unsound food dealt with during the year: -

Meat		28 lbs.
Canned Meat	...	30 bs.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Samples of milk were taken during the year from herds whose milk is retailed raw without heat treatment. These samples were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Portsmouth, for the presence of Live Tubercle Bacilli.

Number of samples taken for Tuberculosis during the year 1968	...	160
Number of samples found to be negative	...	159
" " " " " " positive	...	-
" " " in which Brucella Abortus was isolated		1
" " void samples	...	-
